

Dear Committee Members:

I am unable to attend the March 11, 2015 public hearing on SB-00650, HB-06848 and HB-06962. Please accept this written testimony for the record.

Please oppose all three bills. I believe they are without merit and further erode the personal rights of Connecticut citizens.

Regarding SB-00650 and HB-06848 I oppose these bills because they remove due process of the law from the accused. The importance of due process cannot be over stated and in fact, it is stated in our Constitution in two places: The Fifth Amendment stating that no one shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law" and the Fourteenth Amendment, in the Due Process Clause, describing the legal obligation of all the states. It is a protection – a promise that our government must operate legally and provide for fair procedures. In addition, these two bills if passed, may have unintended consequences to those that might actually be the victims of abuse and need the tools to defend themselves.

Regarding HB-06962 I oppose this bill. Connecticut already has strict child access and negligent storage laws and can impose criminal liability if a child uses or possesses a firearm and causes injury or death. As a gun owner I always keep my firearms secured. Locked away from friends, family and guests in my home.

I raised two daughters and taught them to respect firearms. When they were young they were taught to leave unattended guns alone, something I believe ALL persons should be taught. Education of children and common sense should rule the day. If someone steals/obtains my firearm(s) from my home (without my permission) regardless if it was loaded or unloaded, I am the victim of the crime. It seems clear to me that the act of stealing the firearm and the recklessness or negligence involved in criminal use of the stolen gun would supersede my responsibility for any damages-civil or criminal. Please vote no on these three bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A Hurd

Registered Voter